NSC BRIEFING

20 February 1957

KARAMANLIS GOVERNMENT

- I. May fall shortly after UN Cyprus debate.
 - A. Major pitch for US support.
 - B. Politicians ready to exploit failure.
 - C. Greeks insist must have new angle from UN treatment.
- II. Bitter debate.
- III. Karamanlis as good as US can expect.
 - A. Extreme nationalist alternative.
 - B. Left-center coalition.
 - C. Communist victory Salonika.

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MSC BRIEFING

20 February 1957

KARAMANLIS GOVERNMENT

I. Karamanlis government may not long survive after UN discussion of the Cyprus issue.

A. Greek prime minister has laid on a major campaign to gain American support.

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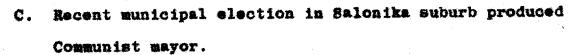
B.

- C. Karamanlis insists he must have something to show after the UN debates.
 - Resolution introducing a new agency, such as investigating commission, considered minimum.
 - Bland resolution asking "parties to negotiate" might lead to government's resignation.
- II. Important figures at the UN trying to get Greeks, Turks, and British to end bitter Cyprus debate with behind-scenes compromise.
 - A. Turks, British and Greeks all lambasted each other in debate.
 - B. Prospect is for resolution urging renewed negotiations between"the parties," with private agreement to refer dispute 25X6 to NATO under "good offices" of Canada.

III.

- A. If new elections came on the heels of a UN rebuff, extreme nationalists would probably score well.
- B. No political group in Greece strong enough to win except a budding left-center coalition which would have Communist-front support.

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- 1. Communist candidate won 32 percent of vote in regular election.
- 2. In run-off between Karamanlis candidate and Communist, non-Communist leaders supported latter.

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